

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information recording/reproducing apparatus of the invention is equipped with an objective lens, a light source and a variable optical element having a grating which demonstrates a piezo-electric effect by means of an electric field. The light source emits and irradiates a laser beam onto the grating to generate a 0th order diffraction beam and +/- 1st order diffraction beams in accordance with first order diffraction efficiency, and the objective lens converges the 0th diffraction beam and +/- 1st order diffraction beams which are irradiated onto an information recording medium for the purpose of information recording or information reproducing. By controlling an electric field applied to the grating, the first order diffraction efficiency of the grating is adjusted, whereby light beams are generated which have power levels appropriate for various kinds of information recording media.